

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a plurality of portable ordering devices to a food preparation area, comprising the steps of:
 - 5 creating handwritten indicia representative at least an aspect of one of said plurality of food orders on one of said plurality of ordering devices; and wirelessly communicating said indicia from said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices for display in said food preparation area.
- 10 2. A method of communicating as in claim 1 wherein said wirelessly communicating step is accomplished in substantially real time.
3. A method of communicating as in claim 1 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
4. A method of communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a portable ordering device to a food preparation area, comprising the steps of:
 - 15 creating handwritten indicia representative of at least an aspect of at least an aspect of one of said plurality of food orders on portable ordering device; and wirelessly communicating said indicia from said portable ordering device for display in said food preparation area.
- 20 5. A method of communicating as in claim 4 wherein said wirelessly communicating step is accomplished in substantially real time.
6. A method of communicating as in claim 4 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
7. A method of communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a plurality of portable ordering devices to a centralized food preparation area, comprising the steps of:
 - 25 indicating one of said plurality of food orders on one of said plurality of ordering devices;

- wirelessly communicating said indication from said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices in substantially real time for display in said food preparation area, said indicia being uniquely identified with said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices;
- 5 wirelessly communicating completion of said one of said plurality of food orders to said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices.
8. A method of communicating as in claim 7 wherein said completion is indicated at said food preparation area.
9. A method of communicating as in claim 7 wherein said wirelessly communicating step is accomplished in substantially real time.
10. A method of communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a portable ordering device to a food preparation area, comprising the steps of:
indicating one of said plurality of food orders on said portable ordering device;
wirelessly communicating said indication from said portable ordering device for display in said food preparation area; and
15 wirelessly communicating completion of said one of the said plurality of food orders to said portable ordering device.
11. A method of communicating as in claim 10 wherein both wirelessly communicating steps are accomplished in substantially real time.
- 20 12. A method of communicating as in claim 10 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
13. A method of communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a plurality of portable ordering devices to a food preparation area, comprising the steps of:
creating indicia representative of at least an aspect of one of said plurality of food orders on one of said plurality of portable ordering devices;

- first wirelessly communicating said indicia from said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices to said food preparation area, said indicia being uniquely identified with said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices;
- 5 second wirelessly communicating completion of said one of said plurality of orders to said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices.
14. A method of communicating as in claim 13 wherein said wirelessly communicating step is accomplished in substantially real time.
15. A method of communicating as in claim 13 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
- 10 16. A method of communicating as in claim 13 wherein said indicia comprises handwritten indicia.
17. A method of communicating as in claim 13 wherein first wirelessly communicating step comprises displaying said indicia.
- 15 18. A method of communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a portable ordering device to a food preparation area, comprising the steps of:
creating indicia representative of at least an aspect of one of said plurality of food orders on said portable ordering device;
first wirelessly communicating said indicia from said portable ordering device to said food preparation area;
- 20 second wirelessly communicating completion of said one of the said plurality of orders to said portable ordering device.
19. A method of communicating as in claim 18 wherein said wirelessly communicating step is accomplished in substantially real time.
- 20 25. A method of communicating as in claim 18 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
21. A method of communicating as in claim 18 wherein said indicia comprises handwritten indicia.

22. A method of communicating as in claim 21 wherein first wirelessly communicating step comprises displaying said handwritten indicia.
23. A system for communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant, comprising:
 - 5 a plurality of portable ordering devices, each of said plurality of portable ordering devices being capable of wireless communication and being capable of receiving handwritten indicia indicative of one of said plurality of food orders;
 - a communication processor wirelessly coupled with said plurality of portable ordering devices;
 - 10 a display, operatively coupled to said communication processor, for displaying in a food preparation area; and
 - said communication processor wirelessly receiving said handwritten indicia uniquely identified with said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices and displaying said handwritten indicia on said display.
24. A system as in claim 23 wherein said wirelessly receiving is accomplished in
15 substantially real time.
25. A system as in claim 23 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
26. A system as in claim 23 wherein said communication processor further wirelessly indicates completion of said one of said plurality of food orders to said one of said plurality of ordering devices.
- 20 27. A system for communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant, comprising:
 - a portable ordering device being capable of wireless communication and being capable of receiving handwritten indicia indicative of one of said plurality of food orders;
 - a communication processor wirelessly coupled with said portable ordering device;
 - 25 a display, operatively coupled to said communication processor, for displaying in said food preparation area; and
 - said communication processor wirelessly receiving said handwritten indicia and displaying said handwritten indicia on said display.

28. A system as in claim 27 wherein said wirelessly receiving is accomplished in substantially real time.
29. A system as in claim 27 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
30. A system as in claim 27 wherein said communication processor further wirelessly indicates completion of said one of said plurality of food orders to said portable ordering device.
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31. A system for communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant from a plurality of portable ordering devices to a food preparation area, comprising:
 - a plurality of portable ordering devices, each of said plurality of portable ordering devices being capable of wireless communication and being capable of receiving indicia indicative of one of said plurality of food orders;
 - 10 a communication processor wirelessly coupled with said plurality of portable ordering devices;
 - a display, operatively coupled to said communication processor, for display in said food preparation area;
 - 15 said communication processor wirelessly receiving said indicia uniquely identified with said one of said plurality of portable ordering devices and displaying said indicia on said display;
 - said communication processor wirelessly indicating completion of said one of said plurality of food orders to said one of said plurality of ordering devices.
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32. A system as in claim 31 wherein said wirelessly receiving is accomplished in substantially real time.
33. A system as in claim 31 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
34. A system as in claim 31 wherein said indicia comprises handwritten indicia.
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35. A system for communicating a plurality of food orders in a restaurant, comprising:
 - a portable ordering device being capable of wireless communication and being capable of receiving indicia indicative of one of said plurality of food orders;

- a communication processor wirelessly coupled with said plurality of portable ordering devices;
- a display, operatively coupled to said communication processor, for display in a food preparation area;
- 5 said communication processor wirelessly receiving said indicia and displaying said indicia on said display;
- said communication processor wirelessly indicating completion of said one of said plurality of food orders to said portable ordering device.
36. A system as in claim 35 wherein said wirelessly receiving is accomplished in
10 substantially real time.
37. A system as in claim 35 wherein said food preparation area is centralized.
38. A system as in claim 35 wherein said indicia comprises handwritten indicia.